

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the media crossing the line between serving the public and manipulating the public in an effort to impact national elections through the misuse of the public airways. The control that Sinclair Broadcasting exerts over its more than 25 stations unfairly uses the public airwaves without charge to present a highly partisan anti-Kerry film under the guise of a documentary. Media consolidation reduces competition and consolidates power into the hands of a few.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Finally, they necessitate a decision by the FDC. Thank you.